



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
July 22, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM and presided over by Lisette Vilanova

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, notice of this meeting has been publicized by having the date, time and location of the meeting posted at the school, on the school web site and advertised in the Home News Tribune which have been designated as the Board's official newspaper within the legal time required. Time will be allotted for public comment at this meeting.

II. FLAG SALUTE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

III. MISSION STATEMENT

To employ an educational design and experience that merges the highest standards of academic excellence while fostering convictions and commitment to social and economic justice. The school acknowledges that both family and community involvement are integral to the student's academic achievement level, and will focus on fostering strong relationships between the school, family and community. Through these partnerships, the school will strive to create a nurturing environment by providing each student with the five resources deemed necessary for healthy child development by the President's Summit for America's Future. These include: a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start, a marketable skill through effective education, and a chance to give back to peers and the community.

In order to provide a quality education, the curriculum offered will involve rigorous academics with a holistic approach to education. Special emphasis will be placed on service learning and espousing the importance of civic and social responsibility. The development of character, leadership skills, conflict resolution abilities, and community responsibility will be stressed to provide the students with the necessary tools to become contributing members of a democratic society.

IV. ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Lisette Vilanova (President)	Present
Joshua Bishop (Vice President)	Present
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Excused
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present

Elba Ceballo	Excused
Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Excused
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present

Additional Attendees:

Margaret Morales (Lead Person)	Present
Gail Long (Board Secretary)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Excused
Peter Salek Nejad (Supervisor – Curriculum/Instr)	Present

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Reinaldo Aviles, school founder and former Board member from East Brunswick NJ had a few comments regarding the 7/21/20 Stakeholder's Meeting:
 - There needs to be better engagement and communication with parents
 - The robo-call is only in English; it needs to be also in Spanish
 - Reasonable accommodations that are being made for faculty who won't come into the classrooms should be a camera in the home to provide instruction as students should not be shortchanged and teachers should work the entire day.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**AUL Education Services Plan**

Ms. Morales led the discussion on the plan by first giving the background that it came about as a result of a 6/26/2020 NJDOE Research and Recovery Plan. She spoke of the three Stakeholder committee meetings, and about issues about connectivity that some students were experiencing. The school will need to do a survey to determine how widespread this issue is. The school was aware of the fact that 15 to 20 students did not have connectivity to access the remote platforms necessary for instruction. Board members wanted texts or emails to get the numbers. Ms. Vilanova stated that the issue may not be just with students, but also with staff. Items discussed were:

- Instructional materials – are they all online?
- Requirement for all students to wear a mask at all time
- Field trips should not occur until spring
- If someone in the school comes down with COVID-19 we must do contact tracing and we would need to contact the Dept. of Health
- A protocol will need to be created on who will do contact tracing at the school
- Facilities space requirements – students must be 6 feet apart or we must have barriers
- Staggered arrival times were suggested
- Thermal cameras will be purchased that can read the temperatures of 40 students at a time
- We will be using a hybrid model

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President invites members of the public to present any additional comments to the Board.

- Reinaldo Aviles, school founder and former Board member from East Brunswick NJ had some additional comments:
 - Someone should attend the NJEA meeting which is taking place tomorrow to see what they are saying since our teachers belong to that union.
 - Partitions give a false sense of security. Everyone should still be required to wear the masks at all times.
 - Teachers shouldn't be required to clean their desks. (This comment was in response to a topic that came up in the discussion about the plan.)

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public bodies may meet in closed session when the matters under discussion are:

- (1) Matters made confidential by state, federal law or rule by court.
- (2) Disclosure would result in an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, unless the person affected consents in writing.
- (3) Disclosure would impair the body's right to receive federal or state funds.
- (4) Collective bargaining.
- (5) Lease or acquisition of property, setting of banking rates, investment of public funds if disclosure would harm the public interest.
- (6) Investigations into violations of law.
- (7) Strategies to protect public security. Pending, ongoing or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation, including attorney-client privilege. The threat of litigation must be more than theoretical for this exemption to apply.
- (8) Personnel matters affecting employees of the public bodies, unless all parties request or consent to a public hearing. Prior to discussion of personnel, affected employees must be given notice, known as a Rice notice, which gives the employee the right to request a public hearing.
- (9) Proceedings that could result in a suspension, civil penalty, or loss of a license or permit.

Discussion Items: Attorney-client Privilege

Motion: Hector Bonilla; Second: Joshua Bishop

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any opposed: 0

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:24 PM

IX. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any opposed: 0

The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:26 PM

X. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS**a. Human Resource and Recognition**

- i. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Maria Chavkin for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator effective 8/1/2020 with an annual salary of \$55,000 prorated from the beginning of the school year through 6/30/2021 subject to a successful criminal history review.

**Motion: Michelle Roman, Second: Eloisa Hernandez; Roll Call Vote:
 Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes;
 Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes; Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.
 Motion Passed**

b. Finance and Facilities

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve: | |
| a. Fund 10 General Warrants List for: | |
| i. June 25 to June 30, 2020 | \$43,828.57 |
| b. Payroll Report for: | |
| iii. June 30, 2020 | <u>\$357,739.51</u> |
| Total: | \$401,568.08 |

**Motion: Joshua Bishop, Second: Angelo Abreu; Roll Call Vote:
 Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes;
 Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes; Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.
 Motion Passed**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Vilanova asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Joshua Bishop, Second: Angelo Abreu

Voice Vote: All in Favor 7, Any Opposed 0

Board meeting was adjourned at 11:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
 Board Secretary